(1.68%), transportation (0.15%), processing (0.92%), rodents (2.50%), birds (0.85%), insects (2.55%) and moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5% out of which the storage losses were estimated at about 2.7%.

(c) and (d) In order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post harvest period, the Government of India is operating the Save Grain Campaign (SGC) scheme since 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this scheme are training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level. Improvement of grain storage structures and popularization of scientific storage structures like metal bins, pucca kothies and RCC ring bins and other activities are also carried out by 17 SGC offices for the benefit of farmers.

Decline in sugar exports

3369. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar exports have suffered as exports were little over 4 lakh tonne since September, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the main cause is the cost of production being over Rs. 13,500 per tonne and the export prices are less;

(c) if so, whether a large quantity of sugar stocks are at present in the country and there is no market for its exports;

(d) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(e) what are the steps being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (e) As per the latest available information from the trade circles, beginning October, 2000 till 23.07.2001, a quantity of 8.11 lakh tonnes (Provisional) of sugar has been physically exported. The exports are continuing.

Due to high level of production of sugar during the 3 consecutive sugar seasons, namely, 1998-99, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001, the level of sugar stocks held be the sugar factories has increased. The efforts are being?

made to bring down the stocks by way of higher releases of sugar in the open market and exports for which the following benefits are being given:—

(i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation. This exemption, which was initially available for a period of six months, commencing from 1st June, 2000, has been extended twice, first upto 31.03.2001 and thereafter upto 30.09.2001 or till further orders, whichever is later.

(ii) It has been decided to treat the quantity exported for commercial exports as advance free sale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.

(iii) It has also been decided that the levy exemption on the quantity of sugar meant for commercial exports, if it cannot be availed by the sugar factory out of 1999-2000 season's production due to the completion of its levy obligation, the same may be availed by the concerned sugar factory from the production in the 2000-2001 sugar season.

(iv) Duty Exemption Pass Book (DEPB) at the rate of 5% of the Free On Board (F.O.B.) value of exports of sugar has been allowed.

(v) Government has removed the quantitative ceiling on export of sugar and have also dispensed with the requirement of the issue of the Registration-Cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), with effect from 01.04.2001 on sugar exports.

Monthly requirement of levy sugar

3370. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVESHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the monthly requirement of levy sugar on the basis of present population;

(b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise; and

(c) the quantity of levy sugar required for the festivel quota, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) With effect from 1-2-2001, the Government has been allocating Levy Sugar under Public Distribution System (PDS) on the basis of projected population as on 1-3-2000.